# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1425
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2017
Water Crisis in Cities
Natterjee Shri J. Jayasingh Thiyagaraj

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the fast growing cities in the country are facing unprecedented water crisis;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has noticed any prediction models that the national supply of water is likely to fall to 50 per cent below demand by 2030;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to arrest the upcoming water crisis?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) to (d) River basin being the natural hydrological unit, the assessment of water resources availability was done by Central Water Commission (CWC) in 1993 river basin wise. As per the assessment, the river basin-wise average annual water availability in the country is 1869 billion cubic meters (BCM). It is estimated that owing to topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilizable water with conventional approach is 1123 BCM which comprises of 690 BCM of surface water and 433 BCM of replenishable ground water resources.

In view of growing population, the per capita water availability in India is reducing progressively. The average annual per capita water availability in the years 2001 and 2011 was assessed as 1820 cubic meters and 1545 cubic meters respectively which may reduce further to 1341 and 1140 in the years 2025 and 2050 respectively.

Annual per-capita water availability of less than 1700 cubic meters is considered as water stressed condition, whereas annual per-capita water availability below 1000 cubic meters is considered as a water scarcity condition. Due to temporal and spatial variability of rainfall, many regions / states receive less than average rainfall and may be considered as water stressed or water scarce.

(e) Water being a State Subject, State Governments undertake several measures for augmenting, conserving and utilizing the water resources which inter-alia include conservation of water resources in reservoirs and traditional water bodies, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.

A National Perspective Plan (NPP) envisaging inter-basin transfer of water has been formulated by this Ministry to improve water security in the country. The implementation of NPP would give added benefits of approximately 35 million hectare of additional irrigation potential and 34000 mega watts (MW) hydro power generation apart from the incidental benefits of flood moderation, navigation, drinking and industrial water supply, fisheries, salinity and pollution control etc.

Central Ground Water Board, under this Ministry has prepared a conceptual document entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India" during the year 2013 envisaging construction of 1.11 crore Rainwater Harvesting and Artificial Recharge structures in the country to harness 85 BCM (Billion Cubic Meters) of water. The augmented ground water resources will enhance the availability of water for drinking, domestic, industrial and irrigation purposes. The Master Plan has been circulated to all State Governments for implementation.

Central Government has launched the National Water Mission with the objective of conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management. One of the goals of National Water Mission is increasing water use efficiency by 20%.

Improved water use efficiency in different sectors such as in irrigation (through micro-irrigation, e.g., drip, sprinkler etc.), industry and households is being encouraged through various initiatives, programmes/ schemes of the Government.

Water conservation and water harvesting structures to augment ground water constitute a special focus area for MGNREGA works and about 2/3rd of the expenditure is directly related to construction of such structures.

Recycle and reuse of water, after treatment to specified standards as well as rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge are being incentivized through various initiatives, programmes/ schemes of the Government.

*****